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The Grizzly, April 18, 2013

Jessica Orbon
Sara Sherr
Misha Fausto
Allison Schroeder
Taylor Manferdini

*See next page for additional authors*

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Curriculum review

Misha Fausto
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Ursinus College’s core curriculum is in the process of being reviewed as part of an initiative set forward in the Strategic Plan to evaluate the college’s general education requirements.

According to Dr. Jay Miller, associate dean of the college and professor of media and communication studies, the last time the core was reviewed was sometime in the 1990s. Miller said most colleges review their core curriculum at least every 10 years.

The goal, Miller said, is to evaluate whether the core curriculum fulfills the mission of Ursinus as a liberal arts college.

“The core curriculum is being reviewed. It doesn’t mean that it is just means reviewed,” Miller said.

In Fall 2011, administrators performed a preliminary review of the core curriculum and made the recommendation that the college’s general education requirements be reviewed more regularly. Miller said several faculty and administrators were then assigned to implement the Strategic Plan recommendation and review the core curriculum.

Academic Council, the college’s elected curriculum committee, will participate in reviewing the core curriculum.

A salon open to all faculty members will be held on Thursday, April 18 at 4:30 in the Bear’s Den to discuss how the liberal arts have informed Ursinus’ core curriculum. Miller said an extensive review of the core will begin next August.

Jennifer Van Gilder, an economics major, said, “Not all students at Ursinus maintain Minnick’s attitude about the cost of tuition. Most have opinions similar to that of Victoria Goodenough, another junior, who pays full tuition.

“I think the cost is a little ridiculous,” Goodenough said. “I mean, if we all pay $55,000, why does Wimberly do so badly during inspection, and why are teams losing funding? Why can’t they have a field to practice on when they represent the school so well in competitions? And our laundry room? Why are all the machines never working at the same time?”

These are questions on the minds of many students angry about the high cost of tuition. Goodenough is in the minority, however, because her family is

Tuition explained

Allison Schroeder
alschoeder@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus College website, in the tuition section, indicates that 85 percent of the student body receives some type of financial aid from the school. According to Richard DiFelicitonito, the Vice President of Enrollment, who oversees the financial aid department, this number is much higher. Recent numbers show that more than 90 percent of students enrolled at Ursinus receive an average of $24,000 in financial aid from the school.

“I complain about the cost of tuition, but I get a lot of aid. The total amount of money my family pays for me to go to school here is about what I would be paying for an off-campus apartment at a bigger school, on top of tuition and all of the other costs,” Amanda Minnneck, a junior business and economics major, said.

Not all students at Ursinus maintain Minnneck’s attitude about the cost of tuition. Most have opinions similar to that of Victoria Goodenough, another junior, who pays full tuition.

“I think the cost is a little ridiculous,” Goodenough said. “I mean, if we all pay $55,000, why does Wimberly do so badly during inspection, and why are teams losing funding? Why can’t they have a field to practice on when they represent the school so well in competitions? And our laundry room? Why are all the machines never working at the same time?”

These are questions on the minds of many students angry about the high cost of tuition. Goodenough is in the minority, however, because her family is

Relay raises money, awareness

The Eighth Annual Ursinus College Relay for Life takes place in the Floy Lewis Bakes Field House from Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday, April 21. The event is a fundraiser for cancer research that benefits the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is an organized walk that celebrates survivors and remembers those lost to cancer. Several survivors are expected to share their stories during the ceremony and Pinho said the survivors are invited to participate in a survivor lap while the Relay attendees cheer them on.

Senior Gabriella Pinho is in charge of the Relay event that celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those who have lost the battle to cancer. Pinho said that Relay will feature performances by the Bearitones, B’Nats and the Seismic Step dance team.

Several survivors are expected to share their stories during the ceremony and Pinho said the survivors are invited to participate in a survivor lap while the Relay attendees cheer them on.

Committee member and senior Janel Melnick is in charge of the Luminaria ceremony, another Relay event that celebrates cancer survivors.

“Luminaria is a ceremony that celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those who have lost the battle to cancer,” Melnick said.

During the ceremony, Melnick said the track is lined with bags and glow sticks and the lights are turned off.

“During the Luminaria ceremony, all the participants walk around the lit path in remembrance and celebration of loved ones and friends who have fought cancer or passed away from it,” Melnick said.

Luminaria bags are also a fundraiser for Relay. Campus community members interested in helping the cause can purchase a bag for $10.

Every year, Relay has a different theme and this year’s theme is carnival. The carnival theme is reflected through the activities and on-site fundraisers.

Taylor Manferdini
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Relay for Life is an organized walk that celebrates survivors and remembers those lost to cancer. Senior Gabriella Pinho is one of the chairs of the Ursinus Relay for Life committee, which is responsible for organizing and fundraising for the event.

“During the Luminaria ceremony, all the participants walk around the lit path in remembrance and celebration of loved ones and friends who have fought cancer or passed away from it,” Melnick said.

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Pinho said that Relay will feature performances by the B’Nats, Bearitones and the Seismic Step dance team. Pinho said the activities at Relay will include an hour of Zumba, human bowling,
Tuition continued from pg. 1

able to pay full tuition.

DiFeliciantonio said that questions like those Goodenough asked and confusion about the high price of attending Ursinus could arise because students don't understand some key points about the financial aid program.

"Fundamentally we're about the academic program, but the academic program costs something. The quality costs something. In order to keep that engine going at the level of quality we want, it's important that people understand that they're paying for something valuable," DiFeliciantonio said.

The money is not going down some hole or off to Tahiti. We're really careful and conscientious about the college's resources.

If each student was actually responsible for paying the full tuition price of $55,630, the college would receive $91,789,500 each year. In reality the sum Ursinus receives is about $55.8 million, or $36 million less than the sum above, because of the amount of financial aid awarded.

This $36 million sum is comprised of scholarships awarded to students based on merit and grants. This is divided among more than 90 percent of the 1,650 students who have an average of $24,000 in what DiFeliciantonio called "discounts." He said that is not money that the school has to give away, but money that the administration is not asking families to pay.

Students might wonder why Ursinus charges $55,630 to begin with if the college offers such large discounts.

"The reason we charge that amount is because that is what we would need to keep the school at the level of quality our students expect," DiFeliciantonio said, adding that the money Ursinus "discounts" to families is money that would be spent paying faculty, improving the food and restoring campus buildings.

"On the other hand," DiFeliciantonio said, "we do realize that people cannot afford to pay $55,000 a year so we have ways of helping."

Each student is evaluated to determine how much their family can afford to pay and how much aid the college can afford to offer to them. Everyone student who is evaluated for aid must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the College Board's Financial Aid PROFILE.

The FAFSA form is a federally constructed form required of students who desire aid for most colleges in the nation. The PROFILE is more specific to small colleges like Ursinus.

Ursinus requires students to file both forms because the FAFSA "is just not everything we want to know," DiFeliciantonio said. It is "by nature a political document. Some aspects of it are about others we do not, and then there are other things we think are missing," he said.

What makes the PROFILE different from the FAFSA is that it takes into account things like home equity. It also uses different percentages when talking about what chunk of money families can afford based on income, assets and savings. The PROFILE calculates the percentages differently from the federal program because the PROFILE is put together by the College Board, which has a closer connection and better understanding of what a college needs to function.

"Processing two types of forms shows that we are interested in more than just the standard," DiFeliciantonio said.

The reason Ursinus is able to be generous with their financial aid packages is that there is a small percentage of students, less than 10 percent, who do pay full tuition. Some of these students do not apply for aid at all and are not on the level for a merit award from the college. Others apply for aid but the FAFSA and PROFILE indicate that they have no need.

On average, a family with no need makes around $200,000 per year and above.

Most students who receive financial aid do so from many different levels, from government scholarships, to college scholarships and grants, to privately obtained scholarships and more. Students who meet FAFSA's requirements usually receive some form of Federal Pell Grants, which range in amount. More than 20 percent of Ursinus students also receive Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency grants. When students are at the level of need to receive PHEAA or Pell grants, they usually will be awarded a great deal more from Ursinus in addition to the federal grants.

"Every single student here has a set of real eyes looking at their financial aid forms for a significant amount of time," DiFeliciantonio said.

Review continued from pg. 1

assistant professor of business and economics, is a member of the group conducting the review.

"It is really a difficult process. We want to make sure that we are true to who Ursinus is, but at the same time be competitive with other schools. We don't want to make changes just to say that we did. The changes must come with a strong point of difference," Van Gilder said.

Van Gilder said they are still in the evaluation process and there have not been any changes made to the curriculum yet. Van Gilder said the review has, however, found that the Common Intellectual Experience and the college's domestic and global diversity requirements are major strengths of Ursinus' curriculum that fulfill the mission of a liberal arts education.

As of right now, Van Gilder said the faculty and administrators participating in the review have not yet to identify any weakness in the core curriculum, but noted that students often express some confusion over the purpose of the core requirements. The committee hopes to make the mission of the core curriculum clearer.

"People have been saying they would like to talk about having students have a better understanding of what the core curriculum is all about and why one would need to take the requirements. What we hope students will be able to understand why the requirements have been made and what effect it has on their education," Miller said.

"Any changes made to the core curriculum will take some time to implement," Van Gilder said. "Once we finish our evaluation the faculty will have to be consulted, it will have to go through the necessary committees and then there will have to be a transitional period to a new, if there is one, program."

Relay for Life continued from pg. 1

spin art, volleyball tournaments, face painting and other carnival themed games.

Local vendors, including Bruster's Ice Cream, will also be present. Pinho said the vendors are donating 20 percent of their profits to the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is a large event at Ursinus with 34 teams registered and over 250 participants. Pinho said students can still register for Relay online at www.relayforlife.org/paursinus or on the day of the event. Registrants participating in the Relay walk pay a $10 entrance fee that counts as a donation to the American Cancer Society, but the event is open to the whole campus regardless of whether they have registered to participate in the walk. Donations can also be made on Ursinus' section of the Relay for Life website.

THE GRIZZLY | THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013

Memorial for Rachel Blunt

Saturday, April 27 at 2 p.m. in Bomberger

Letters to the Editor (grizzly@ursinus.edu)

All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

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Staff positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact the adviser for details.

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Mental health resources reviewed

The quality of the mental health resources offered at the Wellness Center is currently being evaluated.

Christine Dobisch
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Since last fall, the Ursinus administration has collaborated with a team of off-campus professionals to conduct a review of the mental health resources available to students on campus. According to Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs Deborah Nolan, the review evolved out of a desire to meet the growing mental health demands at Ursinus and other colleges across the country.

"Mental health demands on college campuses nationwide have exploded in the last decade. Expectations placed on colleges to respond have been unreasonable, and schools nationwide are talking and exchanging ideas as they do. It is hard enough for people to ask for help," Allison Cavanaugh said. "They shouldn’t have to wait in limbo after finding that courage."

Former student Katherine Murphy echoed these concerns. "I think the staff is adequate and well meaning, but it is limited by budget and I feel there could be more help connecting students to resources in the surrounding area. I know students, myself included, who have had trouble getting their needs met because of waiting lists," Murphy said. "I think there ought to be more awareness as a community and a smaller, private institution of learning, that students are in a difficult time in their lives and though they should be challenged, they should also be supported and understood for their individual circumstances."

Nolan emphasized that Ursinus intends to make any necessary changes to meet the needs of its students. "Ursinus is committed to addressing student mental health management and expects to make some adjustments," Nolan said. "Once the report is submitted from the review team, we will carefully consider the recommendations and make implementations."

The first stage of the review was a self-study that the administration initiated in December and completed in February. An external review team will conduct a separate review and then provide a report with recommendations for the college.

Many Ursinus students have expressed frustration over the availability of mental health resources at the campus’ Wellness Center.

"As a graduating senior, I would be more inclined to give back to Ursinus if they significantly improved the quantity of staff members at Wellness. A college campus is one of the most important places for mental health resources to be available and it is absolutely ridiculous that students have to wait as long as they do. It is hard enough for people to ask for help," Allison Cavanaugh said. "They shouldn’t have to wait in limbo after finding that courage."

Former student Katherine Murphy echoed these concerns. "I think the staff is adequate and well meaning, but it is limited by budget and I feel there could be more help connecting students to resources in the surrounding area. I know students, myself included, who have had trouble getting their needs met because of waiting lists," Murphy said. "I think there ought to be more awareness as a community and a smaller, private institution of learning, that students are in a difficult time in their lives and though they should be challenged, they should also be supported and understood for their individual circumstances."

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Cartoon Contest Winner - Lauren DiCairano, Class of 2013

Top stories from around the globe

Misha Fausto
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Bombings in Boston

As of 9 a.m. on Tuesday, CNN reported that 152 people were injured in a bombing attack at the finish line of the annual Boston Marathon. At least 17 of the injuries are critical, and 8 of the critically injured are children, according to CNN. Three people were killed in the explosion, one of whom was an 8-year-old boy.

CNN stated that the two explosions occurred about 12 seconds apart, and around 2:50 p.m.

"I’ve directed the full resources of the federal government to help state and local authorities protect our people, increase security around the United States as necessary and investigate what happened," President Barack Obama said in a statement on Monday night, according to the official White House website.

Tiger Woods penalized

According to CNN, Tiger Woods was penalized two strokes Saturday after a rules committee believed he violated one of golf’s ball-drop rules during Friday’s play. After Woods met with officials including Billy Payne, the club’s chairman who runs the Masters, the decision was reversed, allowing Woods to remain in the Masters tournament, CNN reported.

US, China cooperate

According to The Washington Post, Secretary of State John F. Kerry convinced China to be harder on North Korea. Kerry argued that North Korea’s escalating belligerence threatens the entire Pacific region, and both countries share the goal of a non-nuclear Korean Peninsula, The Post reported.

China’s foreign policy chief, Yang Jiechi, made a public call for a way out of the tension "peacefully, through dialogue," which stood as a warning to North Korea that China does not want a new Asian war, according to The Post.

Palestinian Prime Minister resigns

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad resigned on Saturday, April 13, according to USA Today. Fayyad’s resignation exposed a rift in the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank just as the U.S. was launching a new push for Mideast peace, USA Today reported.

According to USA Today, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas accepted Fayyad’s resignation and asked him to stay in his post until a new government is formed.

USA Today reported Abbas is expected to name a new prime minister within days, according to Palestinian officials.

America bans Russian officials

According to The New York Times, the Obama administration enforced sanctions that disallowed 18 Russians from traveling to the United States. The list includes Ramzan A. Kadyrov, the president of Chechnya, according to The New York Times. Russians are developing a list entitled the “Guantanamo list” in direct response to these sanctions, The New York Times stated. According to The New York Times, 15 on the list are connected to the death of Sergei L. Magnitsky, a lawyer for William F. Browder a former foreign investigator in Russia. The Guantanamo list includes 104 Americans to possibly ban.

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Collegeville Community Day April 20

According to the Phoenixville News, Collegeville's first Community Day since 2008 is being held outdoors on Saturday. April 20 on the front lawn of the Ber­nen Museum of Art from noon to 4 p.m. The event is hosted by the Collegeville Economic Development Corporation (CDEC) and gener­ously sponsored by the Collegeville Office of Susquehanna Bank. The event will provide a chance to participate in carnival activities connected to the regional assets such as the Perkiomen Trail and the Berman Museum. This Community Day showcases the talent of the Ursinus campus along with that of Collegeville residents. This showcase of talent is comprised of performances by the Ursinus Jazz Group, Ursinus Dance Company, the Bearitones, the B’Natural’s and other groups from the Collegeville area. These other groups performing include Diverse and Christine & Company, an acoustic act from the Philadelphia suburbs. The Dance Depot, a dance studio including students ranging from toddlers through adults, will be performing and also hold a dance competi­tion for people of all ages.

Many of our residents are unaware of the wonderful cultural arts opportunities on the Ursinus campus, and this event will bring them up close and personal with the life of our vibrant campus right here in the center of Collegeville,” Rachael Morrison, executive director of CDEC, said to the Perkiomen Valley Patch.

The event will also include the Second Annual “Chalk It Up!” Contest. This drawing competition will run from noon until 2 p.m. It costs $5 per sidewalk square to compete and anyone can sign up by filling out a form located on the Collegeville Economic Development Corporation website. Prizes will be awarded for various categories.

Food will also be available at this event. Some of the restaurants and food vendors attending include Phamous Phil’s BBQ, CEDC Grill Masters, Rita’s Water Ice, and Dallas’ French Fries.

More than 20 other vendors and businesses from the Collegeville area are going to be attending Community Day. Examples of some of these vendors include Edwards Jons, Computer Trou­bleshooters, Seniors Helping Se­niors, Maura’s Celtic Crafts, and Banges Beads & Scarves.

Other activities offered at Community Day include the oppor­tunity to learn about the sculp­tures on our campus with a guided campus tour. The Ursinus College Environmental Action group will also provide Earth Day activities.

According to Ursinus’ Press Room, Community Day will be featuring a “Kids Need Fun” space, which will offer children a chance to participate in carnival activities. The CDEC website reports that it will include activities like basketball, balloon competitions, spin art, face painting and more.

To learn more about Community Day and to see the schedule for the day, visit CDEC’s website.

Student art exhibit April 24

Amanda Frekot
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Ursinus art students will showcase their work in the student art exhibition that will be on display at the Berman Museum of Art from April 24 to May 10. The opening reception will take place at the Berman on Wednesday, April 24 from 3-5 p.m. The artists will be available to talk about their work, and the Berman staff and art faculty will be present as well. Food and beverages will be provided, according to Julie Choma, collections manager at the Berman.

Choma works with the students directly as they prepare their work for the exhibition.

“Soing the final product of all their hard work in the end, that’s what I look forward to every year,” Choma said.

She is also looking forward to the Ursinus community seeing what the art students have been creating all year. “I think students will really get to see the artistic merit that live here on campus that oftentimes is hidden in Ritter,” Choma said. “It’s all about highlighting the student artists.”

Visiting art professor, Sarah Kaufman, thinks the exhibition is the ideal opportunity for students to expose their work to the community. “Art is about commun­icating. That’s the perfect venue for this kind of communication, to have it out in the world,” Kaufman said.

She also emphasizes the effect of Ursinus’ liberal arts community on the artwork of the students. “I think that art-making in this liberal arts community is really important because the students are able to draw from all of their different experiences here, all their studies, all their activities, and form that into their artistic prac­tice,” Kaufman said. “Nobody’s making work in a bubble.”

Jackie Brown, visiting assis­tant art professor, is also interest­ed in the interdisciplinary aspect of the art department. “The work is not art-centric or myopic,” Brown said in an e-mail. “It ex­ists within the context of the lib­eral arts and covers a broad range of topics.”

Not only is the focus of the art department interdisciplinary, but students receive support from faculty for their own ideas and pursuits. “It’s about produc­ing self-directed work based on a student’s interests, and that’s significant,” Brown said in an e-mail. “Some of the work will be from assigned projects, but a lot of the work is student-driven, and we encourage that.”

Sophomore art major, Monica Reuman, whose art will be showcased in the exhibition, invites the Ursinus community to support their peers. “It’s always interesting to see what your classmates are up to,” Reuman said. “It’s awesome to see what they’ve been creating all semester.”

Like Reuman, Brown is exci­tcd for everyone to see the finished product. She said in an e-mail, “It’s always exciting to see it all come together. There’s usually a wide variety of works and a little something for everyone.”

Word on the Street

What was your favorite class that you took at Ursinus?

“Probably Environment in Literature with Professor Jaroff. I think it was one of the easiest topics for me to talk about so I was really engaged in all of the reading and the class.”

- Michael Lancaster, Senior

“I really liked Werewolves [and Other Shapeshifters] and Brit Lit II. Dr. Ho is really fun and I liked the stuff we were reading. The discussion was really good.”

- Anna Lobo, Senior

“I’ll go with Structural Biology because it got to the root of my interest in biochemistry.”

- Bill Rieck, Senior

“I guess I’d say Contact Improv was one of my favorites. It really ignited my interest in dance and my physical and mental well-being.”

- Daniel Berman, Senior

“Geology because it was a lot of fun. We go on a lot of field trips.”

- Jack Meyer, Sophomore

WWW.URSINUSGRIZZLY.COM
The Ursinus College Dance Company is putting on its spring concert from April 18 through April 20 and the performance is entitled “Between the Lines.” This performance will feature five different dance pieces.

Dr. Karen Clemente, the producer of the show, said, “The dances tell stories of family bonds and adventures, African ceremonies, a jazz club in the 1940’s, individual milestones, and professional guest artists.”

Clemente came to Ursinus this year after working at Eastern University. She formed their dance program and was also the chair of their Dance and Theater Department. Along with Clemente, McCain will be assisting her in what Clemente likes to call “a team effort.”

As the producer of UCDC, Clemente said her role was to “put together the program, secure guest artists to work with the students and manage production details as well as work with the choreographers and Jeanine to organize the whole show.”

Throughout the show there is a thematic thread where stories are uncovered during the performance. Some of the pieces were taken from current classes like Dance Repertory and the senior seminar course.

This year’s UCDC will feature three modern dance pieces one of which is a combination of dance and theater. This will include a multi-media video along with music composed by Dr. Garrett Hope.

“I sent Dr. Hope videos of the piece and he watched the videos and composed a score from them,” said McCain, the choreographer of this piece.

Three of the pieces being performed are choreographed by guest artists.

Students perform in last spring’s UCDC concert.

Spanish classes popular among UC students

Every year, most students at Ursinus face the same question: What course should I take to fulfill my academic language requirement? A considerable number of them come up with the same answer: Spanish.

Learning any second or foreign language can be beneficial for the learner’s development of communicative competency, cognitive skills and self-confidence. The large number of students learning Spanish nowadays suggests that there are some extra advantages to learning this specific language, especially in the United States.

The “Cervantes Institute,” a Spanish public institution created in 1991 to promote the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries, carries out a study each year that is published in an annual publication called “El Español en el Mundo” (Spanish in the World).

The edition that compiled the results of the last study at the end of 2012 revealed that Spanish is now the second language with the largest number of native speakers (495 million people) in the world, after Mandarin Chinese. It has also become the second most important language of international communication, after English.

There are currently 18 million students learning Spanish as a second or foreign language in the world. This produced a rapid growth in the use of the language on the Internet. Its presence on the Internet has increased 800% in the last 10 years, creating a wide gap in growth in relation to Japanese, Portuguese and German.

However surprising as these numbers might seem, the sharpest growth in the use of Spanish has been recorded in the United States. While Mexico is currently the country with the largest number of Spanish speakers, the study recently performed by the Cervantes Institute predicts that in three or four generations the United States will take that place.

What does Ursinus have to offer students to address this reality? UC authorities seem to be well aware of the role that Spanish plays in today’s world.

The modern languages department currently offers 29 Spanish courses. Department members encourage students to major in Spanish and to supplement their work at Ursinus. Majors are required to spend one or two semesters in a Spanish speaking country.

Through the Fulbright exchange program, a native Spanish speaker joins the Ursinus community to work as a teaching assistant every year.

A Spanish TA’s job is not only to help students improve their language skills, but to share aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures. In both classes and in language tables students are invited to ask questions and engage in conversations that can help them learn more about other cultures.

Happening on Campus

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<td>Flyers Game with discounted tickets from the SAO, at the Wells Fargo Center, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>UC Pause for Paws, in Olin Plaza, 12-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Community Day, on the Berman Front Lawn, 12-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Meistersingers perform at Cardinals vs. Phillies game, Citizen’s Bank Park, 5-11 p.m.</td>
<td>I &lt;3 April Quizizz, in Wismer Lower Lounge, 6:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Free Piloxing Class, in Helfferich Dance Studio, 8-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Annual Student Exhibition Opens, in the Berman Museum, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Ursinus College Dance Company: ‘Between the Lines,’ Kaleidoscope Lens Fest Theatre, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Dinner, In Hillel House, 7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Relay for Life, in the Floyd Lewis Bakes Center, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.</td>
<td>Eco-movie night, “Erin Brockovich,” in Olin Auditorium, 7-9:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Career Services Walk-in Wednesday, in the Career Services Office, 1-4 p.m.</td>
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Espn debate isn’t really about sports

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Every Ursinus student should want the campus to drop ESPN. Here’s the catch: it’s not about how much we want to watch sports. It’s about media conglomerates, big money and cable television.

College sports fans are probably familiar with the phrase “conference realignment.” The Bowl Championship Series schools, or more difficulty-state schools with big-time football, have been switching conferences since 2010. If you’re a sports fan, have you stopped to ask why?

It began in 2007, about four years before Nebraska moved from the Big 12 to the Big Ten. When the Big Ten Network launched back then, conference commissioners saw an exciting new way to make revenue. They could expand their geographical reach and rake in subscriber fees from every cable customer in their new footprint, regardless of whether that customer cared about Big Ten sports.

Now the Big Ten Network reaches “an estimated 80 million households” in the U.S. and Canada, according to its website, b10n.com. The cable providers who carry BTN pay $7.70 per subscriber per month for the privilege.

For comparison, TNT, the cable provider second-most expensive basic competing with ESPN, charges providers an average of $1.16 per subscriber per month, though the most recent figure for TNT is slightly more than a year old.

For its part, ESPN partnered with the University of Texas to create The Longhorn Network, an entire station devoted to University of Texas sports. John Skipper, CEO of ESPN, is struggling to get the largest Texas area providers to carry the network, according to dallasnews.com.

ESPN’s flagship, though, is guilty of “double-dipping.” They collect the highest fee on basic cable—an average of $5.15 per subscriber per month in 2012—and they also enjoy the huge advertising revenue that goes along with live sports.

The result is that the cost of exclusive rights to air sporting events has soared beyond reason—Time Warner cable even offers a cable package for half the price that excludes sports.

Broadcast stations have tried to charge “retransmission fees” to cable providers to try to continue competing with ESPN for deals with the NFL and other leagues.

Make no mistake: Enticing television revenue and ESPN in particular are driving conference realignment as college sports relate to others and bring cash from cable operators. A fabulous Oct. 27, 2011 article by USAToday’s Steve Wieberg and Steve Berkwitz outlined the impact ESPN is having on realignment, according to athletic directors and university presidents.

While the extent to which ESPN is involved is debatable, former Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger said in the article, “We’re doing business with an entertainment company whose only way of surviving involves the number of eyeballs watching the screen.” Geiger called that the “driving force” in what he sees as “all the decisions being made.”

Gene DeFilippo, athletic director at Boston College, backtracked on his claim that ESPN told the Atlantic Coast Conference which teams to accept as new members. I find it hard to imagine that DeFilippo truly misspoke. It is more likely that he feared the wrath of ESPN’s influence.

I’ll be blunt, Ursinus. We’ve had our differences about the place of sports here on campus. That doesn’t matter when it comes to ESPN.

ESPN funds Division I programs where, from 1985 to 2010, the salaries of football coaches have increased 650 percent and presidents’ salaries 90 percent, while professors have seen just a 32 percent increase in pay, according to a Feb. 24 essay in The New York Times.

ESPN contracts entice these schools to align themselves in athletic conferences based on what will make for the best television ratings. Neither ESPN nor the NCAA care about missed class time from additional travel, and the last thing they want is to compensate the athletes with some of that juicy television cash.

ESPN glorifies all of this as essential to the college experience.

At Ursinus, our athletic teams compete in a geographically-aligned conference. At Ursinus, the football coach is not the most powerful person on campus. At Ursinus, the college experience is not defined by painting up and trying to get on ESPN’s College Game Day.

No, despite our differences on the role of athletics at Ursinus, I think we can all agree that the impact ESPN has on big-time college athletics is reprehensible.

ESPN’s parent corporation, the Walt Disney Company, is counting on cable viewers to “rise up with torches and pitchforks and storm the castle,” as one Fox Sports executive put it, if cable providers drop the channel.

By rallying behind ESPN, we’ve bolstered a sinister corporate tactic. I thought college kids weren’t supposed to do that, and I’m certain Ursinus students should know better.

Autism Awareness Month is a learning opportunity

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National Autism Awareness Month is the perfect time for those of us without autism to remember that we don’t always have the right answers.

Autism is not a crippling disorder that needs to be defeated. Certainly some forms of autism are more difficult to manage within our society and require extra love, patience and continued support on behalf of the families who cherish these individuals.

Emotional and academic support, treatment to help manage painful symptoms, lessons on how to navigate an increasingly social world, and advanced technologies to harness non-verbal language are where our time and effort should be placed. It should not be the goal to “defeat autism now.” Autism is as much a part as an autistic individual as is their ethnicity, gender, or sexuality.

Autism is a puzzling neurological condition for those with or without it. As such you cannot, and should not, remove the autism from the autistic. You should, and can, enable these individuals to lead healthy, safe, productive, and exciting lives.

This is not an insurmountable goal. By teaching yourself to strip away negative stereotypes, believing that there is more to the human mind than one can communicate through speech, and being a respectful human, we can make this world a more navigable place for autistics.

Note my use of the term autistic, rather than the person-first language “individual with autism” that pervades most of society. Person-first language is certainly preferable to explain individuals with disabilities because it acknowledges that they are a person first and are not defined by their disability. Despite this, the autistic community, as explained by Jim Sinclair and other autistic self-advocates, generally believes that, “autism goes deeper than culture and learned belief systems. It affects how we relate to others and how we find places in society. It even affects how we relate to our own bodies.

“If I did not have an autistic brain, the person that I am would not exist. I am autistic because autism is an essential feature of me as a person... It is only when someone has decided that the characteristic being referred to is negative that suddenly people want to separate it from the person.”

Of course there are other opinions about how to refer to autistics, but as far as I have seen this opinion pervades within the autistic community while person-first language is preferred by non-autistics. Respectfully, I will align with preference of the self-advocates, and you should believe that as well.

I read a blog while investigating the cultural implications of autism that was written by a woman in a South American country. In the blog she explained how honored she was that God (or the universe) had entrusted her with the care of her autistic child.

She knew that not just anyone could be a flexible enough mother to communicate with, love, and learn from her son. As such, she was immeasurably proud to have been entrusted with his life. Though I can not imagine the difficulties involved in raising a child whose habits and communication are so different from one’s own I am inspired by this woman’s perspective and hope that it inspires you as well.

It is important to remember that the world of an autistic is just as inaccessible to us as some elements of our experience are to them. Just as you may think that autistics are missing out on what we experience by having a neurotypical brain, we are equally unable to experience elements of their world.

Be curious! Investigate what it is like to have autism during this month of awareness. Connect with the autistic rather than spreading pity and fear related to the autism.
Hockey not netting enough attention

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The last day of the shortened NHL regular season is Saturday, April 27. For a season which has only been as long as the spring semester, you would expect some more recognition because of the amount of games that are packed into such a short time frame. But this has not been the case for ice hockey in America.

Hockey has always been lagging behind other major sports like football, basketball, and baseball when it comes to recognition. The lockout, which resulted in the cancellation of the first half of the season, was not any help to the sport’s cause.

For the four months the lockout lasted, it seemed the sports world just forgot about ice hockey, rather than miss the sport. It was barely a topic on ESPN’s SportsCenter, and the NHL season alone was enough to make the National Hockey League seem irrelevant.

Mike Neal, a sophomore at Ursinus, grew up in a Detroit suburb as a Red Wings fan. He played the game throughout high school, and has mentioned the 2008 Stanley Cup Finals, which the Red Wings won, is one of his greatest memories.

Neal said, “I don’t think the NHL gets the attention it deserves because the majority of students only watch sports such as football, basketball, and baseball.”

With the regular season entering its final days, hockey fans across America are beginning to become unsettled. The reason is that outside of the NHL Network websites and television stations, hardly any other major sports networks are talking about possible playoff matchups and Stanley Cup finals predictions.

Riley Pembroke is an avid Washington Capitals fan. The Ur­sinus junior spent last summer as an intern with the organization. At Ursinus, however, she doesn’t get a lot of chances to watch her hometown team.

“I think it’s nice that the school gives discounted tickets sometimes, but it sucks that hockey is not on TV a lot,” Pembroke said.

Aside from two major streaks, the NHL season has not picked up the amount of attention that fans were hoping for.

The first major attraction of the season was the Chicago Blackhawks, who raced out to an incredible 24-game start where they earned at least one point in each of the games. This means the Blackhawks did not lose a game in regulation time from the start of the season, until March 8.

The second event that held on to ESPN’s attention was the red hot Pittsburgh Penguins who won 15 games in a row. This streak was close to the longest NHL winning streak of all time, which just so happens to be owned by the 1992-93 Pittsburgh Penguins team.

These feats both came at a time where the sporting world was captivated by the win streak. From February 3 to March 27, people everywhere were in awe of the Miami Heat’s impressive 27-game winning streak. It was the most talked about topic in sports, and most likely, was the reason why the NHL streaks got so much notice.

It was almost charity. At any point during the day, there was a possibility of the Miami Heat streak being discussed on ESPN. It seemed to be out of fairness that the network should give a brief minute or two to talk about the Blackhawks or the Penguins. Without the Heat streak though, it’s very possible the NHL would receive the brief stint of relative­ness it did.

Neal said the game of hockey should be right up there in conversations with the other major sports. “I feel like more people should watch hockey because the game is up tempo, exciting, and fun to watch,” Neal said.

The sophomore believes the game would easily gain the appreciation it deserves once more people start to take notice.

Senior spotlight: Wytch Rigger, men’s lacrosse

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As the men’s lacrosse team’s lone captain, Senior Wytch Rigger has contributed immensely both on and off the field throughout his time at Ursinus.

Rigger, who began playing lacrosse in the fourth grade, is nearing completion of his fourth and final season for the team and is highly regarded in circles among the program he leads onto Patterson Field throughout the spring season.

This is certainly evident to the Bears’ head coach, Jamie Steele.

“Wytch is one of the best leaders I have ever had the pleasure to coach and is our only captain. As a player, he has improved every year and is a major contributor to our defense,” Steele said. “His passion for his teammates and commitment to our program is unmatched. I could not be prouder of Wytch and I will miss him tremendously when he is gone.”

The Georgia native has helped the Bears to a 6-5 overall record, which included the program’s second victory over a nationally­ranked squad when they defeated then-No. 18 York on April 3.

Through 11 games, Rigger has picked up 42 ground balls, caused 26 turnovers, and has recorded an assist. Thanks largely in part to his play and his leadership, Rigger has strengthened the team’s defense, and has helped the squad prepare before and during the season.

Rigger also helped to lead his team to the conference playoffs during his sophomore year, the only time the program has made the playoffs in its history.

“We can always count on him to shut down one of the opposing teams top players. He’s usually good for a play or two that gets momentum going, gets everybody hyped and amped up. He’s a very emotional player and that really gets the team going,” sophomore attacker Jordan Demcher said.

“As a teammate and a friend, he puts everyone else ahead of himself. He is always unselfish and putting the team first, and that really carries over into his leadership abilities,” Demcher said.

For Rigger, his favorite part of being on the team is developing friendships with his teammates.

“Individually, I feel like lacrosse has forced me to assume more responsibility and made me more mature,” Rigger said.

“As a team I feel like the team has developed an identity that includes how hard we work but also a cohesiveness from everybody being so invested in each other.”

All who know Rigger agree that the strength in the relation­ships he forms plays a large part in his success on the team. His dedication to the sport, his leadership on the team, it is all enhanced by his investment to his teammates both on and off the field.

“He’s always doing the right thing. He knows what to do, he knows how to do it, and he does his job well. That’s really something the younger guys should aspire to be like. They should, and we all, consider themselves fortunate to have Wytch as our captain,” Demcher said.
Recap: Baseball loses in 18 innings

Junior lefthander Chris Ryder, who leads the Bears pitching staff with a 3.77 ERA, highlighted the Bears' 18-inning loss to Dickinson with a 10-inning relief appearance, including nine innings of no-hit baseball.

The Bears take to the road on Saturday afternoon, where they face off with McDaniel in Westminster, Md. Game time is slated for 1 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse
After entering halftime in the driver's seat, the Gettysburg Bullets kept the pedal to the metal and defeated the Ursinus women's lacrosse team 13-3 on Saturday afternoon.

Gettysburg, the No. 5-ranked team nationally, held a 10-1 lead entering halftime at Patterson Field, improving their record to 12-1 overall.

The Bears received a goal apiece from Megan Horney, Kathleen McElroy, and Jessica Hill in the conference defeat.

Following a big conference victory over Washington, the Bears improved to 11-5 overall and 3-3 in Centennial Conference play with an 8-1 victory over Gettysburg.

Leading the way in the lopsided victory was junior Evan Stutchin, who won both his first singles and doubles matches in straight sets.

The Bears take on McDaniel at the Ace Bailey Courts on Saturday afternoon. Matches are scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Upcoming UC Athletics Schedule

4/19
Track and Field
Grizzly Classic at Ursinus
3 p.m.

4/19
Baseball
vs. Haverford
3:30 p.m.

4/20
Women's Tennis
@ Franklin & Marshall
12 p.m.

4/20
Baseball
@ Johns Hopkins
12:30 p.m.

4/20
Women's Lacrosse
vs. McDaniel
1 p.m.

4/20
Men's Lacrosse
@ McDaniel
1 p.m.

4/20
Men's Tennis
vs. McDaniel
1 p.m.

4/20
Softball
@ Muhlenberg
1 p.m.